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**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

In re applications of : **DECISION ON PETITIONS**  
Richard T. Takeuchi and Robert M. Nakamura : **TO MAKE SPECIAL**  
Application No. 10/617,861 : **(APPLICANT'S AGE)**  
Filed: July 14, 2003 :  
For: **SUBTERRANEAN WASTE DISPOSAL**  
**PROCESS AND SYSTEM**

This is a decision on the petitions submitted on July 14, 2003 under 37 CFR 1.102 (c) to make the above-identified application special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02, Section IV: Applicant's Age.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

An application may be accorded special status upon the filing of a petition providing evidence showing that the applicant is at least 65 years old. Such a showing may be provided by evidence such as a birth certificate or a statement from the applicant.

The evidence submitted with the petition are two signed declarations indicating Mr. Takeuchi and Mr. Nakamura is at least 65 years of age.

The examiners are directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioners are advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioners makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

**SUMMARY:** Petitions to Make Special GRANTED.

Kenneth J. Dorner  
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KJD/slb: 03/17/05